

Claims

1. Method for transmitting messages in a network via data terminals connected thereto, comprising the following steps:

- 5 - sending a message (14) to be relayed from a sender data terminal to an assigned first mail processing device (2),
- assigning a unique identifier to the message (14), which indicates that a message to be relayed is on the sender data terminal or in the first mail processing device (2),
- 10 - evaluating the identifier by the first mail processing device (2) based on data present therein concerning the entry of messages at an address data terminal from the past, and
- in response to the evaluation result, triggering or blocking the transmission of the message (14) or parts thereof to the
- 15 address data terminal.

2. Method for transmitting messages in a network via data terminals connected thereto, comprising the following steps:

- sending a message (14) to be relayed from a sender data
- 20 terminal to an assigned first mail processing device (2),
- assigning a unique identifier to the message (14), which indicates that a message to be relayed is on the sender data terminal or in the first mail processing device (2),
- relaying the identifier to a second mail processing device
- 25 (4), which is assigned to an address data terminal for the message to be forwarded,
- evaluating the identifier by the second mail processing device (4) based on data present therein concerning the entry of messages at an address data terminal from the past, and
- 30 - in response to the evaluation result, triggering or blocking the transmission of the message (14) or parts thereof to the address data terminal.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that
the data concerning the entry of messages in the address data
terminal is stored in the address data terminal and/or in the
5 first mail-processing device (2).

4. Method according to claim 2,
characterized in that
the data concerning the entry of messages in the address data
10 terminal is stored in the second mail-processing device (2,4).

5. Method according to one of the above claims,
characterized in that
the first mail-processing device (2) is implemented in the
15 sender-data terminal and/or the second mail-processing device
(4) is implemented in the address data terminal.

6. Method according to one of the above claims,
characterized in that
20 the identifier is evaluated on a mail server in the network.

7. Method according to one of the above claims,
characterized in that
the identifier consists of subidentifiers, each of which are
25 assigned message elements, for example a header and/or one or
more attachments, with each subidentifier being evaluated in
the respective mail processing device (2,4) based on the data
present therein concerning the entry of messages at the
address data terminal from the past, and with transmission of
30 the respective message element being triggered or blocked in
response to the evaluation result.

8. Method according to one of the above claims,

characterized in that

if the transmission is blocked on the basis of the evaluation result, a notification of the blocked transmission is forwarded to the sender (1) and/or recipient (5)..

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9. Method according to one of the above claims, characterized in that

the identifier and/or the relevant subidentifier indicates the date and time of creation of the original message where these
10 differ from the time of transmission, and/or an e-mail address of an original sender if this differs from the e-mail address of the sender (1), and/or the contents of the message (14) or of the respective message element.

15 10. Data terminal for executing the method according to one of the above claims,
having a mail processing device (2,4), which is designed such that an identifier for a message (14) based on data present concerning the entry of messages at an address data terminal
20 from the past is evaluated in an evaluation unit, and such that, based on the evaluation result, transmission of a message (14) - or parts thereof - to the address data terminal is triggered or blocked.

25 11. Data terminal according to claim 10,
characterized in that
the mail-processing device (2,4) forms part of a mail server,
which is integrated in the data terminal.

30 12. Data terminal according to claim 10 or 11,
characterized by
a memory unit for storing data concerning the entry of messages at a different data terminal.

13. Network for executing the method according to one of the above claims,

having a mail processing device (2,4), which is designed such

5 that an identifier for a message (14) is evaluated in an evaluation unit based on data present concerning the entry of messages at an address data terminal from the past, and such that, based on the evaluation result, transmission of a message (14) - or parts thereof - to the address data terminal
10 is triggered or blocked.

14. Network according to claim 13,

characterized in that

the mail-processing device (2,4) forms part of a mail server.

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15. Network according to claim 13 or 14,

characterized by

a memory unit for storing data concerning the entry of messages at connected data terminals.